

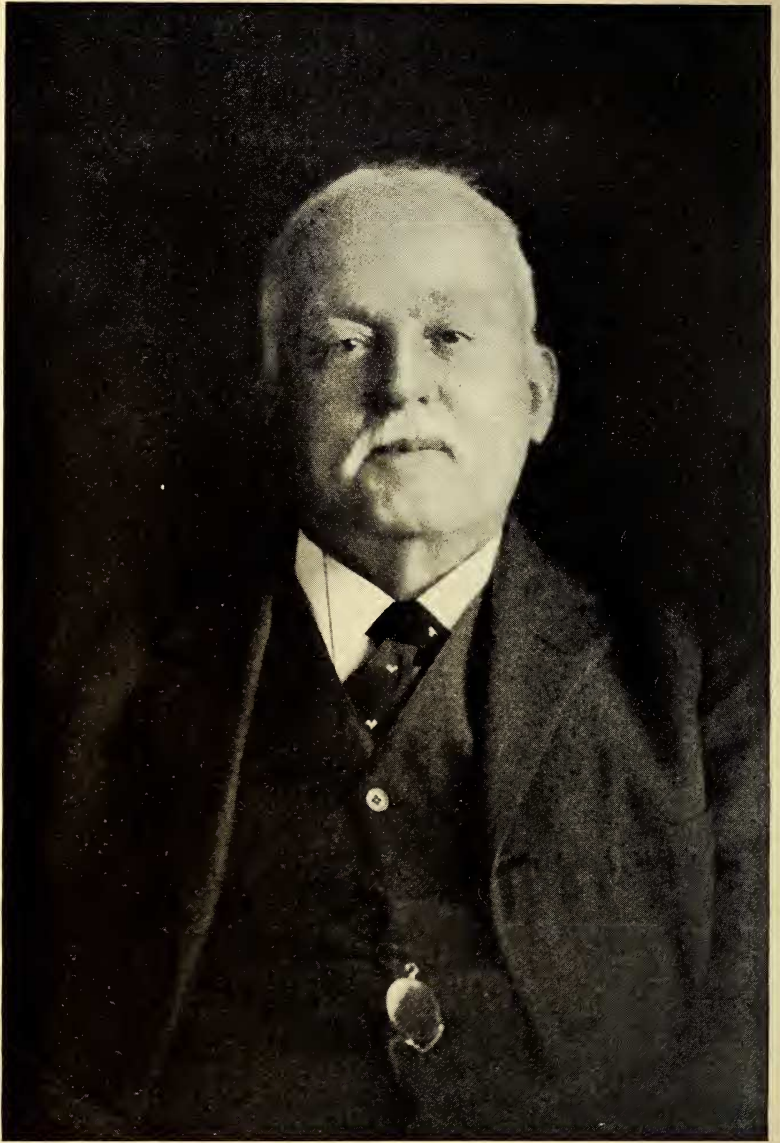
ANNUAL DINNER FOR 1914

THE annual dinner of the California Botanical Society for 1914 was held December 12 at the Hotel Carlton in Berkeley. Dr. W. L. Jepson presided as toastmaster and introduced Mr. S. B. Parish of San Bernardino, as guest of honor. A hearty welcome accorded the guest by the toastmaster was joined in by Dr. H. M. Hall and Miss Rosalind Keep. Mr. Parish responded as follows:

I confess, Dr. Jepson, to a feeling of surprise this evening when I look upon this goodly company that is before me, to see that there are so many botanists here in central California. I did not suppose there were. The most that I am accustomed to, when botanists gather together, is two or three, and to see so many is an agreeable surprise to me, and it must be very agreeable to you to know that there are so many interested in the subject. It must be very stimulating to you in your studies, and in your investigations of nature. It brings to my mind very prominently the last time I was in Berkeley. That was a generation ago, I am sorry to say—thirty odd years—and Berkeley at that time was not a botanical center by any means. I remember coming over from San Francisco in company with Dr. Parry, who was then staying there, to call upon the only working botanist in Berkeley. I suppose there was somebody up at the University, tho I do not know. But the only working botanist was the Rev. E. L. Greene, afterwards Professor of Botany in the University, but who was at that time rector of a little wooden church. It was a very small and plain structure—I do not remember where it was situated¹—and I came over and attended the morning service and afterwards went with the rector to his home and we talked about plants the rest of the evening. That seemed to be the extent of botanical activity in Berkeley at that time. What activity there was on the coast of California at that time centered in San Francisco at the old Academy of Sciences, which then occupied a church at the top of the hill,² and the botanical department was located in the gallery of this old church. There were perhaps three or four persons in the Academy who were more or less interested in botany. Dr. H. W. Harkness, who was interested in fungi but who has left no impression on my mind, was one. Dr. Hans Behr, who was the best educated botanist of all, but whose interest in botany at that time had all turned to spiders. He cared not very much for plants, but was very much interested in spiders. The third botanist and the one who was working the most was Dr. Albert Kellogg, and I remember him very distinctly when one would go to the church

¹ St. Mark's Church, Bancroft Way.

² California Street.



SAMUEL BONSAI PARISH

and climb to the gallery. At one end you would see Dr. Kellogg in his shirt sleeves and his old red flannel waistcoat, making drawings of twigs. He would lay the twigs down on the table, and over them he placed a sheet of glass, and over that a piece of transfer paper, and very slowly, very deliberately, and very patiently he would trace out the drawings of these plants. I do not know how many he had. He must have had a great many, and most of them were destroyed at the time of the great earthquake I suppose. How was that, Dr. Jepson? [Dr. Jepson: Yes, they were all destroyed.] Then there was Mr. Harford who worked with Dr. Kellogg more or less. The herbarium which they had was not very extensive, and more or less the work of Kellogg and Harford. However, they had the best collection of books and the best collection of plants on the coast, and it was very interesting for anyone who cared for plants to go up there and see what there was. That was the botanical center then. One goes to the universities now. I believe that the Department of Botany in the University of California is dissatisfied by not having a building of its own, but it seems to me the men are very finely conditioned. They have a fine collection of plants and plenty of books. I can find almost any book there I chance to need. Then there are visiting botanists working there much of the time. Anyway there is this that they have in common with the old days—the kindly generous spirit which they show to visitors, throwing open their herbarium and their library and assisting them in every way that they can—the same spirit that was in that little gallery over at San Francisco.

Now I said it was very encouraging, most encouraging to you ladies and gentlemen, to have the spirit of numbers. It is all very well to talk about holding communion with nature alone, but it seems to me that is not the case to which the old proverb refers—that two are company and three are none. It seems to me a matter of great importance—this spirit of numbers—and that is one of the disadvantages in living away from a botanical center. I have been perhaps more fortunate in the place in which I reside than I might have been had I resided elsewhere. I live at a place which is really a very interesting natural botanical center. We are within a couple of hours of the seashore and within a short distance of the desert and we have, immediately overhanging the San Bernardino valley, mountains 12,000 feet high. Thus we have all kinds of vegetation and thereby this region attracts botanists, and so I have had the pleasure of seeing there a great many botanists who have come to visit my region; first, perhaps, Dr. Asa Gray, a botanist of America whose work is at the foundation of all systematic botany in this country. Dr. Gray made two visits to California as you are all probably aware. The time I saw him was at the second visit and he was then some sixty-five or seventy years old, and was not feeling very well. His great trouble was that he was unable to climb these mountains, 12,000 feet high, at the time of his visit because they

were covered with snow, and he regretted that he was there early in the season.

Another botanist that I recall, with others, is Dr. Engelmann. It seems to me that he was a model for the unprofessional botanist. Dr. Engelmann was a physician in a very large and extensive practise. Yet he found time to take up several of the most difficult families of plants and those which required the closest study, and to make himself an undisputed authority with regard to them. His work still remains, at least at the foundation of whatever is being done with these plants at the present time.

There were a great many others and I perhaps may mention just one or two more. I should like to speak to you about Mr. Pringle, who occupies as a collector as permanent a position as Dr. Gray did as a systematic botanist. Mr. Pringle collected very extensively in California and other parts of the United States; he then confined his attention to the flora of Mexico and for twenty-five years spent his summers collecting in different parts of that country, collecting altogether in Mexico one-half million of plants. And when you think of the amount of labor involved in that you will say that he was persistent and—well, persistent I guess is about the best word—that he was persistent. He made fifty sets of every plant and distributed them to the principal herbaria of the world. Now, a man that will keep at that for twenty-five years certainly deserves the name of a great collector. I shall tell you just a little about his life and give certain incidents which illustrate the spirit of the man, the persistence and determination of the man. Pringle was born, I suppose that is the way they come,—he was born a real true Presbyterian. When he came to the years of discretion he met a young lady of Quaker faith and became a very strong Quaker with all the peace loving propensities of Quakers and a disposition which perhaps leads them into the most severe combats that anyone can meet. They are bound to obtain peace under any conditions. Unfortunately, soon after he became converted by this young lady, it was time for the Civil War, and he was drafted for a soldier. By the payment of three hundred dollars he could have remained at home, but principle was too much for that and he refused to pay this fee for a substitute. He was sent to the recruit camp, absolutely refused to carry a gun and defied the United States and its power and authority. All the gentle measures which military men are accustomed to use in such cases they freely used. I think you would be interested if you could read some extracts from his diary on that account. It seems to me to carry you back about five hundred years to things that occurred in England at that time. However, when they found that they could do nothing else with Mr. Pringle they decided to detail him as a nurse. That created a momentary hesitation, but conscience was too strong and he determined that he would not go to war even to that extent. He could not be made to do anything so far away in spirit from the ways of peace. Well, how

do you suppose it all came out? It came out that President Lincoln heard of it and gave Mr. Pringle a furlough with orders to report whenever he was called and of course he was never called upon. Mr. Pringle overcame the United States government and I doubt if there is another botanist that could do it. That persistence and courage led him perhaps all through his life. He went back and married the young lady and I wish I might say they lived happily ever afterward, but it ended in a divorce.

Well, I might go on and tell you about many other botanists, but I think I might told about enough and I thank you very much. It is a very great pleasure to both Mrs. Parish and myself to be with you this evening.

A NEW SPECIES OF CYPRESS

WILLIS LINN JEPSON

Cupressus Forbesii Jepson n. sp. Slender tree 15 to 20 ft. high; bark very smooth, shining, red-brown or even dark cherry red; branchlets squarish; foliage bright green; dorsal pits of leaves minute or commonly wanting; cones globose, $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 1-5 in. long; seed red-brown.

This cypress was discovered Dec. 30, 1907, in Cedar Cañon between El Nido and Dulzura, San Diego County, by my former student, Mr. C. N. Forbes, later Assistant in Botany, Bishop Museum, Honolulu. I take pleasure in naming it in his memory. The same thing, apparently, has also been found on Mt. Tecate and near Pala by Mr. S. B. Parish but I have not seen his specimens.

NOTES AND NEWS

Professor J. H. Patton, of the University of Melbourne, visited the University of California in September. He voiced surprise at the size and growth of the Blue Gums (*Eucalyptus globulus*) in the Hilgard Grove on the University campus and remarked: "We have none as tall in our own state of Victoria. There must be something very mild about your winters and something equable about your whole year that gives such growth. We grow your Monterey Cypress as a lawn tree for its pyramidal shape and also as a hedge for clipping. Lawson Cypress we also grow as well as Monterey Pine. Monterey Pine does well and we use its wood for making cheap packing cases."

From Professor Patton it was learned that Baron Ferdinand von Mueller's collection is utterly neglected. It is housed in its original herbarium building about ten miles from the University of Melbourne, the fine library still with it. This establishment, for such it once was, does not belong to the University and does not belong to the Botanic Garden, just outside of which it stands.—W. L. J.